

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner clearing up the confusion about the August 26, 2003, Information Disclosure Statement. As a courtesy, Applicants have herein provided additional copies of all of the relevant papers included in that Statement.

As a second preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the continued allowance of claims 2 and 4-12 of the present invention.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner appears to express some confusion regarding the final limitations of claim 17 regarding the second common resistor. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and submit that the claim language is clear and definite as filed.

Applicants respectfully suggest that the Examiner has misread the claim language in question. The Examiner is correct in his assertion that a resistor is typically a two terminal element, but is incorrect in his implication, on pages 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action (Paper No. 05142004), that two such terminals of the claimed common resistor connect to each of the multiple gates. In fact, claim 17 actually recites that the second common resistor is connected to the conductive materials, and not directly to each different gate of the multiple transistors. Claim 17 merely recites that this common resistor is connected to the conductive materials “for connecting” the gate

electrodes to the short ring. Claim 17 does not require that the common resistor be *directly* connected to each gate electrode.

The preceding paragraph of claim 17 features that the gate electrode of the thin film transistor in each electrostatic protection element portion is also connected to the conductive materials. In other words, any element connected to the same conductive materials (as is the second common resistor) would also be electrically connected to the same gate electrodes in each electrostatic protection element portions by way of the conductive materials. Therefore, only a single common resistor would be necessary in such a configuration to electrically connect the gate electrodes of each thin film transistor to the short ring through the common resistor.

Fig. 12 of the present invention, for example, clearly illustrates and supports such a configuration. One single common resistor 37 is featured between the short ring and the conductor 42, which conductor electrically connects the gate electrodes of all of the thin film transistors 32 illustrated. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the language of claim 17 is clear and supported by the Specification, and therefore respectfully request that the Section 112 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 17 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ha (U.S. 6,493,047). Applicants first traverse this rejection because the U.S. 6,493,047 patent has not been cited by the Examiner in any Information Disclosure Statement. However, Applicants note that this particular reference was a Divisional Application of U.S. 6,337,772 to Ha, which has been previously cited by the Examiner, and contains the

same drawing (Fig. 4) now cited by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. Applicants therefore respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to the earlier Ha reference, 6,337,722, because Ha fails to teach or suggest the second common resistor described above.

As described above with respect to the Section 112 rejection, and as clearly illustrated in at least Fig. 12 of the present Application, the embodiment of the present invention featured in claim 17 includes a single second common resistor between the short ring and the conductive materials, which conductive materials commonly connect all of the gate electrodes of each thin film transistor. Fig. 4 of Ha, as cited by the Examiner, shows no such common resistor.

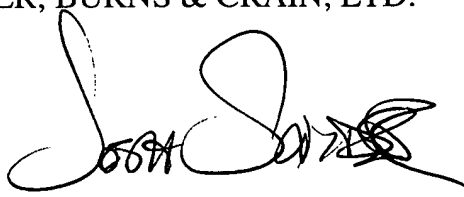
In fact, Fig. 4 of Ha shows that each individual ESD prevention circuit PR1 includes its own second resistor R2, and not a common resistor for all of the gate electrodes connected to the control port 50-1. According to Fig. 4 of Ha therefore, there could be no teaching or suggestion within the reference for using a common resistor in place of all of the multiple resistors R2 as shown. For at least these reasons therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claim 17 based on either Ha reference is respectfully traversed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 2, 4-12, and 17, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh C. Snider", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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